(b) The following power/transmission projects of Madhya Pradesh are, inter alia, awaiting environmental and fores: clearance:—

1. Sanjay Gandhi TPS Extn. (1x500 MW)
2. Rajgarh TPS (2 x500 MW)
3. Marhikheda HE Project (2x20 MW (MW 20X1) 4.

Omkaroshwar Multipurpose Project (8x65 MW)

5. Gandhisagar Power House II K.E. Project (4x40 MW)
6. Bodghat (indira Sarovar) (4x125 MW)
7. Hasdeo Bangs (3x40 MW)
8. Bansagar-I to Bansagar-II (REWA) D/C 220 KV
9. VindhyachaLBina S/C 80O-KV VSTPP St. II
10. Korba-Bhilai S/C 400 KV 4th Oct. VSTPP St. If
11. Itarsi-Dhule 400 KV D/C VSTPP St. I (Add), system)
12. Bina-Malanpur 400 KV D/C.

(c) and (d) No power project of Madhya Pradesh is pending for approval of the Planning Commission or awaiting sanction of funds. As to the State sector projects mentioned at (b) they would be submitted to the Planning Commission only after necessary clearances including Environmental & Forests clearances are obtained. Likewise Central Sector projects will be submitted for investment approval after the requisite clearances are taken.

Setting up of a study group for promotion of Tourist Centres in Eastern State]

*117. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESH-WARl: SHRI MD. SALIM:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

' (a) What are the plans under Govern-ment's consideration to promote some major tourist centres in Eastern States;

(b) by when some of the projects are likely to be taken up;

(c) whether Government have set up any Study Group for this purpose; and

(d) if so, what are its achievements'?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (*a)* and (b) Development of tourist centres in Eastern States is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments. However, the centre extends financial assistance to the States on project to project basis. Sanction of funds to augment tourist facilities is a continuous process and as such no specific time limit couid be indicated.

(c) The Government of India has set up Task Force I and II for Buddhist centres which includes centres in Bihar, Orissa and Sikkim in the Eastern region.

(d) Task Force-I has recommendea certain action points to be taken up join tly by the Government of Bihar and Government of India. The OECF of Ja pan has approved loan assistance amo unting to Japanese Yen 3314 million for projects related to buddhist centres In Bihar.

Appointment of a Chief, Commissioner for NRIs

* 118. SHRI IQBAL SINGH:

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the Central Budget, 1991-92, a reference was made regard ing appointment of a Chief Commissio ner for the NRIs;

(b) whether any steps have bsen taken by Government in this direction;

(c) If so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) If the answer to part (b) above be in negative, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIS-TRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The posting of a suitable person to the post is under consideration of the Government.

(d) In view of (b) Question does not arise

Proposal for a L.P.T. station at Paradip Port

*119. SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SA-MANTARAY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal for having a L.P.T. Station at Paradip Port considering its International importance and weak transmission from Bhubaneshwar T.V. Station because of long distance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the L.P.T. station at Paradip Port will start operating?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) No such proposal appears to have been received by Doordarshan in the recent past.

(d) Does not arise.

(c) Improvement of TV service at Paradip Port and adjoining areas would depend on future availability of resources for the purpose.

Observance of, excise day

*120. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RA£I: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 24th February, 1993 was observed as Excise Day all over the country;

(b) if so, what are the details of the celebrations with background for such observance;

(c) whether this celebration included disposal of public grievances within some time limit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE SHRI M.V. CHAND R ASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) 24th February, 1993 was observed as Excise Day, by the Central Excise Collectorates all over the country. Government decided to observe the Day after considering a request made by the All India Federation of Central Exci^ Executive Officers to celebrate the Day, with a view to fostering a sense of pride and identity among the members of the service and to generate a feeling of camaraderie. The Day was to be celebrated by informative write ups/ar-ticles in newspapers/journals and magazines, holding seminars and lectures with participation by eminent persons in various fields, distribution of prizes and awards to field units/officers for outstanding wOrk and organisation of cultural programmes and get-to-gethers.

(c) and (d) The celebrations did not in. elude disposal of public grievances, as various fora for redressal of grievances of public/assessees already exist, like the Customs and Central Excise Advisory Council at the Centre and Regional Advisory Committees/Grievances Committees at the Collectorates' Headquarters providing effective opportunities for ventilation of general problems/specific grievances and redressal of the same.

Promotion of Tourism in unexplored Spouts in Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir

802. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ladhakh and Jammu Regions in Jammu and Kashmir State are abound in unexplored spots of tourist potential;

(b) if so, whether Government have drawn any time bound plan for the de-velopment of these spots to promote